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Three Timorese at Swedish embassy in Jakarta call for help

In a letter from the Swedish embassy in Jakarta where they have been taking refuge since last Wednesday, three East Timorese students have appealed for help to get out of Indonesia safely.

The three men, Florencio A. Fernandes, Jose Manuel de Oliveira Sousa and Profirio da Costa Oliveira, complain that they are not being treated by the embassy in accordance with Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights according to which "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution". They say in the letter that they are under pressure from the Swedish embassy and the Indonesian military to sign a guarantee from the Indonesian authorities on the basis of which they would leave the embassy:

> *All the time, the military and the Swedish embassy are insisting that we sign a statement that they have drawn up, but we have persisted in refusing to do so.*

The statement, they say, has been drafted by the embassy and military officers "without our knowledge and without consulting us".

They also charge that they are being intimidated by Indonesian intelligence agents just outside the door of the embassy, and complain that embassy officials have cut them off from the press. TAPOL has learned independently from Jakarta that the area surrounding the embassy, on the floor below, is "swarming with Indonesian soldiers". All efforts from abroad to speak to the three men by phone have been thwarted by embassy officials.

The letter from the embassy is dated 29 June and was smuggled abroad overnight.

The three say that the representative in Jakarta of the UNHCR is also trying to persuade them to sign the statement and has refused to become involved in top-level negotiations to secure travel documents to help them leave Indonesia.

TAPOL has conveyed this information to the Swedish Foreign Minister, urging that the embassy be instructed to stop exerting pressure on the three Timorese. TAPOL has appealed to the Swedish government to act promptly to obtain travel documents for the men and to negotiate safe passage for them from the Indonesian authorities to get them from the embassy to a plane that will take them to safety, out of Indonesia.

TAPOL has also complained to the UNHCR in Geneva of a serious breach in their obligations towards men in need of their protection and has asked them to do everything possible to expedite travel documents from the UNHCR or from another international agency.